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SENATE BILL 285

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF LAND  
PARCELS FOR A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY; CREATING A FUND; MAKING  
AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 28-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
Chapter 252, Section 33) is amended to read:

"28-13-1. SHORT TITLE. -- [~~Sections 74-1-1 through 74-1-12~~  
~~NMSA 1953~~] Chapter 28, Article 13 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the  
"Veterans' Service Act". "

Section 2. A new section of the Veterans' Service Act is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS-- STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY FUND  
CREATED-- PURPOSE. --

A. The legislature finds that:

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1 (1) the federal veterans' administration has  
2 no plans to establish or expand national cemeteries in New  
3 Mexico and, as space in the Santa Fe national cemetery will  
4 soon be depleted, the state has an obligation to find land for  
5 the establishment of a veterans' cemetery as a suitable  
6 alternative for the respectful interment of its veterans;

7 (2) parcels of state land have been identified  
8 as possible areas for a future veterans' cemetery, but studies  
9 need to be conducted to assess their appropriateness and the  
10 feasibility of such a project; and

11 (3) upon the state providing land for the  
12 purpose of building a veterans' cemetery, the federal veterans'  
13 administration has a state cemetery grants program through  
14 which the state could receive financial and maintenance  
15 assistance for the building and upkeep of the proposed  
16 veterans' cemetery.

17 B. The New Mexico veterans' service commission is  
18 the state agency responsible for the establishment of a state  
19 veterans' cemetery and for the collection and disbursement of  
20 all money collected or received pursuant to state or federal  
21 law for that purpose and may exercise any power incidental  
22 thereto.

23 C. The "state veterans' cemetery fund" is created  
24 in the state treasury. The fund consists of all money  
25 appropriated to it and all money collected or received by the

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1 state for purposes of establishing a state veterans' cemetery.  
2 Money in the fund is appropriated to the New Mexico veterans'  
3 service commission for the purpose of carrying out the  
4 provisions of this section. All earnings of the fund shall be  
5 credited to the fund. Disbursements of the fund shall be made  
6 by warrant of the department of finance and administration  
7 pursuant to vouchers signed by a designated representative of  
8 the New Mexico veterans' service commission. Any unexpended or  
9 unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the end of any  
10 fiscal year shall not revert to any other fund but shall remain  
11 to the credit of the fund. "

12 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- Fifty thousand dollars  
13 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state  
14 veterans' cemetery fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2004 and  
15 subsequent fiscal years for the purpose of conducting a study  
16 of parcels of state land in Rio Rancho in Sandoval county and  
17 other available state lands to assess their suitability for a  
18 state veterans' cemetery. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
19 balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert  
20 to the general fund.